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Message from the Mayor

Last week, we testified to the DC Council's Health Committee my proposal for a new medical center in Southeast – the National Capital Medical Center. This new hospital is an absolutely essential piece of the health care safety net in our city.

There is a measurable gap in hospital beds for East Washington, and this proposal is strongly supported by community leaders in Wards 6, 7 and 8. I committed to getting a final plan of action to the City Council by October, and we intend to spend the rest of the summer sharing details of the plan with more individuals, business owners and community leaders throughout the city.

Our health care safety net must include good hospitals across our city. Most hospitals are clustered in NW, putting people in NE and SE at risk. Now, some have suggested that a new hospital should be a "poor person's hospital." Well, it depends on what you mean by that. Yes, it should serve the people of Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8, some of whom are poor. But it shouldn't be a second-class hospital or a hospital of last resort. It should be a private, world-class hospital that attracts and serves residents from all over our city.

The NCMC will be located just south of RFK stadium, along the Anacostia Waterfront. The site is known as Reservation 13. It is centrally located near major freeways, bridges, and the Stadium/Armory Metro station. In 2003, we developed a plan for the new Hill-East Neighborhood on the site of the old DC General Campus, in consultation with more than 300 community members. Resulting from this plan, the new neighborhood will become a gateway to the Anacostia Waterfront.

Unlike the old DC General Hospital, which was a sprawling suburban style campus that covered 67 acres, the new medical center will be a modern urban design. It will fit on a much smaller 9-acre footprint at the Northeast corner of Reservation 13 in an area zoned for healthcare and institutional uses.

The plan for the new hospital will be consistent with the Master Plan developed by the community and approved by the Council. Residents of the surrounding neighborhoods will be given many opportunities to comment on the design and layout of the hospital.

By this fall, I will introduce legislation for Council action. The package will include a signed Exclusive Rights Agreement with Howard University, which will govern the development project. It will also include a financing package and grant agreement. This financing plan will incorporate a revised project cost estimate that will be used for determining the District's contribution.



MPD Announces 'TIPP' Program

Since the bus and subway attacks in London, we've had excellent communications with the federal government. We have received timely notification and updates, and we've had ongoing communication with our counterparts in the region.

It is no surprise that terrorism continues to be a threat in the United States and in the Nation's Capital. As we know from the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, some terrorists use materials and equipment generally available in the marketplace. Others may attempt to portray themselves as legitimate customers in order to procure the goods they need, while others may attempt to steal them.

In either case, it is usually an individual business or service organization that will be the first to notice something out of the ordinary. When that happens, it is critical that these suspicions be immediately passed on to law enforcement, so that the information can be examined, evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon.

That is why the Metropolitan Police Department created Operation TIPP (Terrorist Incident Prevention Program): to make it easy for businesses, service agencies and other organizations in the Washington region to get directly involved in terrorism prevention.

Operation TIPP has two key parts:

- Educating businesses within specific industries on what to look out for in the way of suspicious activity related to their industry group;
- Providing easy and convenient ways—including a confidential, toll-free telephone number (1-877-YOU-WATCH)—for businesses to report suspicious activity to the police.

The MPD encourages all businesses in the DC area to become familiar with Operation TIPP and to become actively involved in terrorism prevention.

For more information, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov>

Climate Control Conference in Utah

On Monday July 11, I participated in the "Sundance Summit, a Mayors' Gathering on Climate Protection" in Salt Lake City, Utah. Speakers included Former Vice President Al Gore and actor Robert Redford.

In recent years, US mayors have been increasingly taking steps to advance climate protection at the local level. The Sundance Summit was an opportunity for mayors to exchange information about how they can play a leading role in effectively combating global warming.

I joined a bipartisan group of more than 160 mayors from across the country in signing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The resolution urges federal and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to reduce US dependence on fossil fuels and to accelerate the development of clean, renewable energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies.

Global warming is perhaps the most urgent environmental threat that we now face. We in Washington, DC have become accustomed to Code Red and even Code Purple days in the summer. Cities are hotter than surrounding areas due to the urban heat island effect, caused by our roads and other impervious surfaces absorbing heat from the sun. The District of Columbia is committed to doing its part, as a major US city, to reduce our impact.

I commend Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels for his leadership in reaching out to mayors nationwide in order to speed the adoption of local strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The effect of greenhouse gas emissions has been linked to unstable weather patterns, floods, droughts, and outbreaks of tropical diseases. If left unchecked, global warming will cause rising sea levels, the melting of the polar icecaps, and a host of other environmental problems that will seriously affect the lives of virtually every American as well as citizens of other nations.

In October 2003, the District joined twelve states and three other cities in formally challenging the failure of the US Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gas pollutants.

In May, I announced my support for the creation of a stand-alone Department of the Environment for the District. As I said then, it's time that the Nation's Capital has a Department of the Environment to help ensure that our natural environment is clean and healthy for our residents and for the millions of visitors we host every year. A new department would enable us to focus our efforts on critical issues such as improving the city's air quality, cleaning up our local rivers and streams and developing our parks and open spaces.

I also pledged support for ensuring that all new DC government buildings – including the new baseball stadium – are environmentally healthy and clean. And, I called upon private sector employers to help make the District a "green city" by cutting in half the paper they use, committing to follow the District's commercial recycling laws and reducing water usage.

Finally, I have proposed and established the first hybrid incentives law in the District of Columbia. This legislation rewards owners of hybrid and other alternative fuel vehicles by waiving their excise tax and offering reduced registration rates. The legislation increases excise tax rates for heavy passenger vehicles.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

National League of Cities in DC

Last week, I had the pleasure of hosting the National League of Cities Board of Directors here in Washington.

During our meetings, the Board discussed the recent Supreme Court ruling on eminent domain, the impact of rising health care costs on municipalities as employers, tax reform and progress on appropriations in Congress for key local programs including the Community Development Block Grant program.

In the evenings, I had a chance to show off our city and communities. We traveled to the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Northwest for a reception and dinner. Then, I took the group on a bus tour of Anacostia, showcasing the River and neighborhood redevelopment. We had dinner at Hillcrest Recreation Center with Hillcrest community members.

I was thrilled that NLC board members had a chance to see the history of East Washington. Believe it or not, it's a history that many of our own residents don't even know themselves.

It was a pleasure to meet in Washington with officials from across the country to discuss important issues and show off the magnificent Nation's Capital. For more information about the National League of Cities, please visit <http://www.nlc.org>.

Sandra Bears, Ms. Senior DC 2005

Recently, Sandra Bears, a program manager with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, was crowned Ms. Senior DC 2005. She competed with other District women in the pageant who were all judged on personal interviews, philosophy of life, talent and evening gown presentation. Sandra also received an award for Best Talent during the annual pageant. She will represent the District in the Ms. Senior America Pageant this year.

Sandra Bears is a native Washingtonian, mother of twins Kim and Calvin, with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. For more than 30 years, she has worked in the field of social and recreational programs at the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sandra's love and dedication allow her to be a successful counselor and advisor providing conflict resolution and social resources. She creates childcare activities and promotes increased family interaction. She recently launched a successful program, "The Superman Contest," which increased the male involvement throughout 46 childcare programs.

Sandra's hobbies include singing, dancing, art and crafts and storytelling. As a founding member of the internationally known vocal trio, the Jewels, in the 60's, she has traveled, recorded and performed across the United States and abroad for many years.

Never too old to learn, Sandra is in a continuing education program for Early Childhood Development at the University of the District of Columbia where she is pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Education.

Sandra's dad always said she was his little queen. She is sure he is in heaven smiling and watching all of this year's queens. She is very grateful for this opportunity.



New 'DC Circulator' Bus

On July 13, I had the pleasure of introducing and riding the DC Circulator bus service – a new service that will revolutionize transportation in our city.

The Nation's Capital has an outstanding public transportation service; Metrobus and Metrorail combined form one of the most efficient and powerful "people moving" systems in the world. However, some spots downtown remain tough to reach or require several transfers. As always, we can and must do better. In an effort to take DC's public transportation to the next level, we have created the Circulator.

A \$1 trip takes riders on one of two routes:

- From Union Station to Georgetown with stops at the Convention Center and several along K Street
- And from the Convention Center to the Southwest Waterfront with stops at MCI Center and National Mall.

The Circulator, like many great things in our city is the result of a partnership. With a generous \$1 million of seed money from Congress, the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) worked with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the local business community to make sure that mobility and access to downtown is increased and that congestion is decreased.

The result is an affordable, cross-town bus service that will move people around our city's core, help reduce congestion on our streets and help clean the air of the Nation's Capital.

For more information on the DC Circulator, including schedules and a map, please visit: <http://www.dccirculator.com/>.



District Activities



Mayor Williams presented a proclamation during the annual Bastille Day celebration outside Les Halles restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.



Mayor Williams delivered remarks at the inauguration of the DC Circulator transit service. Also in attendance were City Council Chair Linda Cropp, Councilmember Carol Schwartz and DDOT Director Dan Tangherlini.



Mayor Williams joined Metro General Manager Richard White at a news conference outside Metro Center after riding Metrorail to illustrate the safety of the city's rails.

Community News

- [Historic Land Transfer: White House to Give More Than 200 Acres to District](#)
- [Mayor Waives Pool Entry Fees for District Youth](#)
- [Mayor Questions ESPN Snub of District](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

8/2	National Night Out All Evening Washington, DC
8/6	Youth Correctional Officer Job Fair 10 am – 4 pm Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Reeves Center Lobby 2000 14th Street, NW Washington, DC
8/6-8/14	District Sales Tax Holiday Washington, DC

